IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of Alfredo Nicosia et al.

Examiner: T. Prasthofer

Group Art Unit: 1627

Serial No.: 09/463,098

Response to paper No.: 14

Filed: May 15, 2000

For: "Mimotopes of

Hypervariable Region 1

of the E2 Glycoprotein

of HCV and Uses Thereof")

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SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In response to the August 27, 2001 Office Communication, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Specification:

In accordance with a telephone conference with Examiner Prasthofer on October 24, 2001, Applicants are hereby submitting a substitute specification. A marked-up copy of the original specification showing where sequence identifiers (SEQ ID NOS) were inserted into the application is also attached hereto.